

Message Text

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12

ACTION EA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 PM-03 SP-02 L-01

INR-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PRS-01 RSC-01 /039 W

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P 181140Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8983

C O N F I D E N T I A L PHNOM PENH 1047

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CB

SUBJECT: S. SCHANBERG, NY TIMES CORRESPONDENT, ARTICLE ON CAMBODIA

1. THE WIRELESS FILE OF JANUARY 18 INCLUDES AN ITEM BY SID SCHANBERG, NY TIMES, DATED JANUARY 17, UNDER TITLE , "U.S. HAS LAST-DITCH PLAN FOR CAMBODIA" AND INCLUDES THE PHRASE "AMERICAN EMBASSY HERE SAID TODAY THAT THERE WAS AN EMERGENCY CONTINGENCY PLAN TO USE THE US AIR FORCE TO RUN LARGE SUPPLY AIRLIFT INTO CAMBODIA TO KEEP THE PHNOM PENH GOVERNMENT FROM FALLING TO THE INSURGENTS." THIS IS DISTORTION OF CONVERSATION ON BACKGROUND WITH US EMBASSY OFFICIAL HERE. THUS ONCE AGAIN HE DRAWS HIS OWN CONCLUSION BUT HANGS IT ON AN EMBASSY SOURCE PEG, AS IF UNWILLING TO STAND ON HIS OWN CONCLUSIONS. THE MISSION HAS REPEATEDLY REMINDED SCHANBERG OF THE NON-ATTRIBUTION GROUND RULE. HE HAS REPEATEDLY VIOLATED IT.

2. OTHER "SCHANERBIANISMS" ABOUND IN THE SAME ARTICLE, REFLECTING AGAIN HIS OWN PREDILECTIONS AND PREJUDICES. THE INNUENDO RELATING THE BIRD AIR OPERATION TO CIA IS BUT ONE EXAMPLE. ANOTHER IS HIS INFERENCE OF USG DETERMINATION TO MAINTAIN A LON NOL GOVERNMENT INSTEAD OF CITING MORE ACCURATE AND MORE PERTINENT COMMITMENT TO A COM-PROMISE SETTLEMENT.

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3. SCHANBERG HAS BEEN OUR HEAVIEST CROSS TO BEAR IN

OUR RECENT DEALINGS WITH THE PRESS. HE APPEARS TO SEE HIS
ROLE AS HELPING TO END THE CAMBODIAN CONFLICT BY
BRINGING AN END TO AMERICAN SUPPORT FOR THE GOVERN-
MENT OF THE KHMER REPUBLIC. DESPITE A NUMBER OF
DIFFERENT FORMS OF ASSISTANCE BY THIS MISSION TO
SCHANBERG, HE CONTINUES TO STRETCH, DISTORT,
OR ERRONEOUSLY ATTRIBUTE IN ORDER TO BUTTRESS HIS
OWN PREJUDICES AND PRE-FORMED CONCLUSIONS. WE CAN
ONLY HOPE THAT MR. SCHANBERG WILL SOON BE WENDING
HIS WAY TO WARSAW, HIS NEW POST ASSIGNMENT. IN SPITE OF
OUR TROUBLES WITH SCHANBERG, WE CONTINUE TO HOLD
TO THE POSITION THAT THIS MISSION MUST REMAIN OPEN TO
THE PRESS. THIS APPEARS TO HAVE PAID OFF IN TERMS OF RECENT TV
COVERAGE.
DEAN

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Message Attributes

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